

Johnson House
171 Broadway
Norwich
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-258

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

JOHNSON HOUSE

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Location: 171 Broadway, Norwich, New London County,
Connecticut.

Present Occupant: Various tenants.

Present Use: Apartment House.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is a large, Greek Revival, frame house,
built about 1840.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: The original owner was probably John Johnson, a bachelor whose father was a president of the Norwich Bank. The house was later owned by a Dr. Linnell.
- B. Date of erection: c. 1840.
- C. Notes on alterations and additions: The interior of the house has been remodeled into five apartments.
- D. Sources of information: Interview with Raymond B. Case, 12 Mediterranean Lane, Norwichtown, Connecticut, October 26, 1960. Interview with Harry MacDougald, 167 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut, October 27, 1960.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement
 - 1. Architectural character: This is a large, Greek Revival frame house, built c. 1840.
 - 2. Condition of fabric: Good.
- B. Technical Description of Exterior
 - 1. Overall dimensions: The house consists of a large, rectangular main block, two-and-a-half stories high, five bays wide, plus a large rear wing.
 - 2. Foundations: Regularly coursed, smoothly cut, ashlar on the front; brick on the sides and rear.

3. Wall construction: Frame, with horizontal flush boards on the front and clapboards on the sides.
4. Porches: Two-story high entrance portico with four fluted Ionic columns, full Ionic entablature with denticulated cornice; and gable roof with pediment. There are four enframed, flat pilasters on the facade at the corners and behind the outside columns of the portico. There is a one-and-a-half story high porch on the rear wing with square columns similar to the flat pilasters. There is a one-story high porch on the southeast side of the house with a nearly flat roof and four Ionic columns. Two of the three bays have been enclosed.
5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys in the outside walls.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance door has two vertical panels decorated at top and bottom with palmettes. The door is set in a large doorway with molded frame and with side lights and top lights. The doorway has a denticulated cornice supported by carved brackets.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung windows with 6 light sash over 6 light. Shutters have adjustable slats.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with pediment on the north gable end. The gable on the south end has large round headed windows opening onto a heavily ornamented balcony. The balcony and windows are apparently later.
 - b. Cornice: Denticulated cornice with beaded bed mold.
 - c. Dormers: There is a large, wide dormer on the third story, rear of the house with an arched roof and three windows. The dormer projects slightly beyond the face of the wall, supported on brackets.
- C. Interior: The house originally had a central hall type plan, but has been remodeled into five apartments.
- D. Site
 1. Orientation: The house faces southwest on a fairly level lot in a residential section of town.

2. Landscaping, gardens, etc. Informally landscaped with lawn, trees, and shrubs.

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Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
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